

(October 28, 1996)

Compost

Compost shall be stable, mature, decomposed organic solid waste that is the result of the accelerated, aerobic biodegradation and stabilization under controlled conditions. The result is a uniform dark, soil-like appearance.

Compost maturity or stability is the point at which the aerobic biodegradation of the compost has slowed and oxygen consumption and carbon dioxide generation has dropped. Subsequent testing provides consistent results.

Compost production and quality shall comply with the Interim Guidelines for Compost Quality, #94-38 or superseding editions, and amendments, published by the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Compost products shall meet the following physical criteria:

1. 100 percent shall pass through a 1-inch sieve when tested in accordance with AASHTO Test Method T87 and T88.
2. The pH range shall be between 5.5 and 8.5 when tested in accordance with WSDOT Test Method 417.
3. Manufactured inert material (plastic, concrete, ceramics, metal, etc.) shall be less than 1 percent on a dry weight or volume basis, whichever provides for the least amount of foreign material.
4. Minimum organic matter shall be 30 percent dry weight basis as determined by loss on ignition. (LOI test)
5. Soluble salt contents shall be less than 4.0 mmhos/cm.
6. Compost shall score a number 5 or above on the Solvita Compost Maturity Test.

Prior to delivery of compost, the Contractor shall supply one unused set of Compost Maturity Test kits, containing six tests, per item code #2261. Additional kits may be requested by the Engineer when testing needs exceed supply. Unused test kit materials will be returned to the Contractor.

The Solvita Compost Maturity Test is available from:

Woods End Research Laboratory, Inc.
Box 297, Mount Vernon, Maine 04352
207-293-2457
E-mail: infor@woodsend.org

Acceptance of composted products shall be based on the following submittals by the Contractor:

1. A Request for Approval of Material Source.

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2. A copy of the Solid Waste Handling Permit issued to the supplier by the Jurisdictional Health Department as per WAC 173-304 (Minimum Functional Standards for Solid Waste Handling).
3. Written verification from the supplier that the material complies with the processes, testing, and standards specified in the Interim Guidelines for Compost Quality.
4. Written verification from the supplier that the compost products originate a minimum of 65 percent by volume from recycled plant waste. A maximum of 35 percent by volume of other approved organic waste and/or biosolids may be substituted for recycled plant waste.
5. A copy of the lab analyses described under Testing Parameters in the Guidelines for Compost Quality. The analyses shall be less than three months old.
6. A list of the feedstock by percentage present in the final compost product.